

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY GHOST OCTOBER 19, 2011

The simplicity of the primitive Christian worship, as laid down in the book of the Acts, is worthy of particular notice and admiration. Here are no expensive ceremonies: no apparatus calculated merely to impress the senses, and produce emotions in the animal system, "to help," as has been foolishly said, "the spirit of devotion." The heart is the subject in which this spirit of devotion is kindled; and the Spirit of GOD alone is the agent that communicates and maintains the celestial fire; and God, who knows and searches that heart, is the object of its adoration, and the only source whence it expects the grace that pardons, sanctifies, and renders it happy. No strange fire can be brought to this altar: for the God of the Christians can be worshipped only in spirit and truth; the truth revealed, directing the worship; and the Spirit given, applying that truth, and giving life and energy to every faculty and power. Thus God was worshipped in his own way, and through his own power; every religious act, thus performed, was acceptable to him; the praises of his followers rose up as incense before the throne, and their prayers were heard and answered. As they had but one God, so they had but one Mediator between God and man, the Lord Jesus Christ. They received him as the gift of God's eternal love; sought and found redemption in his blood; and, in a holy and useful life, showed forth the virtues of Him who had called them from darkness into his marvelous light; for no profession of faith was then considered of any worth that was not supported by that love to God and man which is the fulfilling of the law, which is the life and soul of obedience to the Divine testimonies, and the ceaseless spring of benevolence and humanity. This is the religion of Jesus Christ, as laid down and exemplified in this blessed book.

"Ye different sects, who all declare,
LO! CHRIST is here, and CHRIST is there,
Your stronger proofs divinely give,
And show me where the Christians live."

Notes on Chapter One ACTS 1:5; 1:8

**Ac 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized
with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**

However, the mode of administering the sign is of very little consequence; and which is the best mode is exceedingly dubious: the stress should be laid on receiving the thing signified-the Holy Ghost, to illuminate, regenerate, refine, and purify the heart. With this, sprinkling or immersion are equally efficient: without this, both are worth nothing.

READ AND COMPARE:

Mt 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Lu 3:16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

"..... but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence".

Le 23:15 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete:

Ye shall count unto you-seven Sabbaths] That is, from the sixteenth of the first month to the sixth of the third month. These seven weeks, called here Sabbaths, were to be complete, i. e., the forty-nine days must be finished, and the next day, the fiftieth, is what, from the Septuagint, we call pentecost.

What is the significance of the "seven weeks", or Sabbaths? Seven / 7 is the number of completion. Do you suppose that the necessity of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is designed of God for the "completion" of chosen vessels.

Vessels who are complete in that, His Spirit, His person-hood, has been imparted into their spirits making them well abled ministers to reach out to surely a lost and hope less end time generation.

Ac 1:5 For John truly baptized with water"....

John is represented as baptizing with water, but the Messiah who was to come as baptizing with the Holy Ghost and with fire!

* In the baptism of the Holy Ghost:

-It assured both the disciples and others of the doctrine and life of the Gospel.

*That they would be able to fulfil their calling(s) in His work.

*They would be able to obey the Savior's commands and desires.

* "not many days hence" - consider why Jesus said not many days hence:

*It would compel them to really watch

*It would prompt and urge them to really pray.

*It would through obedience, strengthen their faith.

Ac 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

My disciples, you will shall be baptized with an abundant effusion of the Holy Spirit.

Far beyond what youi have ever received.

SOME TRUTHS TO UNDERSTAND

"Ye shall receive power"

*The Lord's infinite authority over all times and seasons.

*The Lord's sovereign liberty of acting or not acting in any given circumstance(s)

*The Lord's "energy" imparted to them through the which they were enabled to work miracles.

*This anointing may be given in such times and seasons, and in various measures, which would appear best in the infinite wisdom of God.

*The disciples were made instruments in the Kingdom of Christ,
IN THE HOLY GHOST!!!

WILL GOD'S MINISTERS ALWAYS BE ACCEPTED, OR BELEIVED UPON?

Look at some instances in our Lord's earthly stay.

Realize what He said then, and what the Holy Ghost is saying today.

Mt 11:20 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not:

21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

22 But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.

23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

*The necessity of being Spirit filled, is so very pertinent, and the needs so severe, in this hour.

Why?

*The ministry of the Gospel far superceeds that of your local church.

*Yes, our home churches are vital and yes, His Spirit dwells there.

HOWEVER,

*We as a family, and as a body are not really opposed by other close believers.

*"Out There", like in Jesus' time, He and His disciples were not beleived.

*"Out There", in our time, we will face opposition.

*You must be Holy Ghost filled, to have the ability, and capability, to be instruments that manifest His Life.